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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/792,468	01/31/97	SHIMIZU	C 94049B

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT
PAPER NUMBER

2514 16

DATE MAILED: 05/28/97

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 13-36 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 13-36 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☒ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s): herein
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 (paper No 4)
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Part III DETAILED ACTION

1 1. Acknowledgement is made that this application is a continuation (FWC) of Application Serial No.
2 08/526,091, filed 11 September 1995, now abandoned, which is a division of Application Serial No.
3 08/274,041, filed 12 July 1994, now pending.

4
5 2. Receipt is acknowledged of the Preliminary Amendment filed 31 January 1997 and 24 March
6 1997, and the Associate Power of Attorney filed 31 January 1997.

7
8 ***Priority***

9 3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).
10 The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 08/274,041, filed on 12 July 1994.

11
12 ***Additional Remarks***

13 4. The application contains disclosure entirely outside the bounds of the allowed claims. Applicants
14 are required to modify the brief summary of the invention and restrict the descriptive matter so as to be in
15 harmony with the claims (M.P.E.P. § 1302.01).

16 Furthermore, the Applicants are reminded that figures 1-5, 7-9, 14-16, 18-28, and 31 are
17 extraneous subject matter and therefore it should be modified or deleted. Figures 6, 10-13, 17, 29-30, and
18 32-33 are most pertained to the present claimed invention.

Drawings

5. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Specification

6. Applicants should note that "Page 5, line 24, change "Furthermore" to --Meanwhile--", and "Page 70, line 26, delete "actually"" (see pg. 3, lines 3 and 16 of the Amendment filed 30 August 1996, paper no. 5) were not entered because it could not be located. Please clarify and correct in next response.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claim 22 drawn to the apparatus, and method claims 27-30, 32-33, and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Collins, Jr. (US 5,149,947, of the record).

Collins shows and teaches a portable check-out system having all of the elements and means as recited in claim 22 drawn to the apparatus, and method claims 27-30, 32-33, and 35-36. For example, Collins teaches the following:

A purchased commodity accommodating and transporting apparatus/cart 50 (see figs. 3-5; and col. 3, lines 46-49) comprising scanning terminal 44 (see figs. 3-5; and col. 3, lines 46+); an accommodation

1 section (see figs. 3-5); a magnetic card reading section [88, 90] (see figs. 3-5; and col. 4, lines 3-8); a
2 commodity price retrieval section [102, 104] (see fig. 7; and col. 4, lines 30+); and a management section
3 110 which communicates with a purchased commodity accommodating and transporting apparatus/cart via
4 wireless communication (see col. 4, lines 37+). Furthermore, Collins clearly shows and discloses that the
5 above elements and the means are **fixed** to the purchased commodity accommodating and transporting
6 apparatus/cart 50 (see fig. 5, and col. 3, lines 46+).

7 Although, Collins is silent with respect to the "automatic clearing processing section for
8 automatically clearing the amount of money corresponding to the price of the commodity retrieved by said
9 commodity price retrieval section from an account corresponding to the magnetic information of the card
10 read by said magnetic card reading section ...", it is clearly inherent and anticipated by Collins to
11 accomplish the above task/validation of the credit card account upon completion of the purchase.

12 13 *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

14 9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness
15 rejections set forth in this Office action:

16 A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
17 forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented
18 and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time
19 the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter
20 pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

21 Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f)
22 or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the
23 subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the
24 same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

25 This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under
26 35 U.S.C. § 103, the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly
27 owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

1 Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates
2 of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the
3 examiner to consider the applicability of potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C.
4 § 103.

5 10. Claims 13-21 and 23 drawn to the apparatus, and method claim 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.
6 § 103 as being unpatentable over Collins. The teachings of Collins have been discussed above.

7 Re claims 13-15, 23, and 34: Although, Collins fail to show or disclose a "prepaid card inputting
8 processing section ... reading remains information of the prepaid card" as recited in claims 13 and 23;
9 "debit card scanner" as recited in claim 34; "a notification section for notifying, when the remains read by
10 said prepaid card ... shortage" as recited in claim 14; and "a selection section for selecting ... inserting a
11 second prepaid card ... purchasing processing is to be ended" as recited in claim 15, it would have been
12 obvious to an artisan at the time the invention was made to substitute the credit card system as taught by
13 Collins with a notoriously old and well known prepaid card and/or debit card system due to the fact that
14 the credit card, the prepaid card, and debit card are art recognized equivalent and/or substitution of
15 equivalents. Furthermore, with respect to the "reading remains ... prepaid card", "notification section
16 ...", and "selection section ... inserting a second prepaid card", one of ordinary skill in the art would have
17 recognized that such practices as discussed above are commonly practiced in the prior art systems (e.g.,
18 Metro fare cards are believed to be a prepaid cards whereby the Metro fare card system clearly practices
19 the above practices and/or procedures). Thus, in view of the commonly known practices/procedures, as
20 discussed above, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time the invention was made to
21 incorporate such conventional practices/procedures to the teachings of Collins because such incorporation
22 would have constituted an obvious expedient well within the ordinary skill in the art.

1 Re claims 16-18: As to the "receipt issuance section", Collins discloses a printer 84 which issues
2 a receipt 86 (see col. 3, lines 67+; and col. 4, lines 51-52).

3 Re claims 19-21: With regard to "receipt issuance selection section for selecting whether the
4 issuance of a receipt by said receipt issuance section is necessary or unnecessary", it would have been
5 obvious to an artisan at the time the invention was made to incorporate such receipt issuance selection
6 section to the teachings of Collins due to the fact that it is notoriously old and well known in the prior art
7 systems, such as retail stores, grocery stores, etc., whereby the vendee can specifically request to the
8 vendor to either provide him/her (i.e., the vendee) with a receipt of the purchases made or to discard it.
9 Since, Collins discloses a stand-alone credit card check-out system and the printer for printing the receipt,
10 in view of the conventional procedures as discussed above, one of ordinary skill in the art would have
11 contemplated that one (i.e., the vendee) may or may not wish to receive a receipt upon completion of the
12 transaction, and therefore, to incorporate the receipt issuance selection section would have constituted an
13 obvious expedient well within the ordinary skill in the art.

14 11. Claim 31 drawn to the method is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over
15 Collins, in view of Hehemann (DT 2,139,889, of the record). The teachings of Collins have been
16 discussed above.

17 Collins fail to show or teach that the "transportable container is a hand carried basket".

18 Hehemann teaches a purchased commodity accommodating and transporting apparatus whereby
19 the transportable container is a hand carried basket (see the English abstract; and figure 2). In view of
20 Hehemann's teaching, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time the invention was made to
21 substitute the transporting cart/trolley as taught by Collins with a notoriously old and well known
22 transporting basket due to the fact that the cart/trolley and the basket are art recognized equivalent and/or

1 substitution of equivalents for transporting goods. Accordingly, due to lack of criticality, the transportable
2 basket as set forth in claim 31 is not seen to patentably distinct over the teaching of Collins (i.e.,
3 transportable cart/trolley).

4 12. Claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Collins, in view of
5 Ehrat (US 3,836,755, of the record). The teachings of Collins have been discussed above.

6 Collins fail to show or teach "a data reception section for receiving data from a management
7 section, and a power on/off drive section ..." as recited in claim 24; and "a weighing equipment for
8 measuring the total weight of commodities ... detecting the variation of the total weight of the commodities
9 .. , and alarm generation section ..." as recited in claims 25 and 26.

10 Ehrat teaches a purchasing trolley 2, comprises a reading means 24; a goods basket 18; weighing
11 pan of scales 182; signaling means [SE₁, SE₂]; a purchasing container electronic system 91 to determine
12 whether the data of the data support were correctly read and whether the weight increase measured by the
13 scales coincides within specific limits with the weight data on the data support or whether placing the
14 article into the goods basket was accompanied by a weight increase; an error recognition circuit and
15 transmission section (see col 6, line 13 through col. 7, line 9); weight comparison section 42; weight store
16 [38, 39]; output 95 for off-line operation and output S for on-line operation; check-out station 4 (i.e., POS
17 terminal) having a panel/display [4c, 4i]; and a computer 93 which is capable of transmitting/receiving
18 data from the purchasing trolley, and furthermore, the computer 93 includes the means for enabling and/or
19 disabling the trolley via communication means (see col. 19, lines 58+). See figures 1-5, 13, and 23;
20 abstract; col. 1, lines 5-18; col. 1, line 47 through col. 2, line 21; col. 3, line 15 through col. 4, line 63;
21 col. 6, line 13 through col. 7, line 62; col. 14, lines 4-57; col. 16, lines 38-64; and col. 18, line 1 through
22 col. 19, line 38.

1 In view of Ehrat's teaching, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time the invention was
2 made to integrate notoriously old and well known scale/weighing equipment and the means for
3 enabling/disabling the trolley to the teachings of Collins for greater security purposes and a more versatile
4 system (i.e., the modified stand-alone system will inherently measure and monitor (i.e., without the aide of
5 a plurality of personnel) when each article is read-in so that fraudulent manipulations are practically
6 eliminated).

7
8 **Conclusion**

9 13. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2500 by facsimile transmission.
10 Papers should be faxed to Group 2500 via the PTO fax machine located in Crystal Plaza 2. The faxing of
11 such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15,
12 1989), as modified by the new rules published in the Federal Register dated 22 October 1993. The CP-2
13 fax machine number is (703)308-7723.

14 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should
15 be directed to *Michael G. Lee* whose telephone number is (703)305-3503, and who can be reached
16 between the hours of 6:30AM to 3:00PM Monday thru Thursday and every other Friday (first Friday of
17 the bi-week).

18 Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the
19 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

20
21 
22 MGL

23 May 19, 1997


DONALD T. HAJEC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2500